

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A plasmid isolable from *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, which comprises a gene coding for a Rep protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid sequence having homology of 90% or more to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, and has a size of about 4.4 kb or about 6 kb, or a derivative thereof.
2. The plasmid or the derivative thereof according to claim 1, which is isolable from *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes* AJ12340 (FERM BP-1539), AJ12308 (FERM BP-1540) or AJ12310 (FERM BP-1542), has a size of about 4.4 kb and is represented by the restriction map shown in Fig. 1.
3. The plasmid or the derivative thereof according to claim 1, which is isolable from *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes* AJ12309 (FERM BP-1541), has a size of about 6 kb and is represented by the restriction map shown in Fig. 2.
- 20 ~~4. The plasmid or the derivative thereof according to claim 1, which comprises a gene coding for a Rep protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 2, 4 or 6.~~
- 25 5. The plasmid or the derivative thereof according to claim 1, which comprises a gene coding for a Rep protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 8.

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